EPHRAIM KNOWLTON HANKS

Ephraim Knowlton Hanks, was born March 21, 1826 at Madison, Lake County, Ohio, the son of Benjamin Hanks and Martha Knowlton. He was the sixth of twelve children.

In early years he was known as the "Little Blacksmith," and his cheerful disposition won him many friends.

After serving three years in the U.S. Navy, he joined the Mormon Church and was one of the first to volunteer for the Mormon Battalion. He came to Utah July 29, 1847 with the James Brown Contingent, Mormon Battalion, Company D.

He married Harriet Amelia Decker (Little), Sept. 22, 1848, who was born March 13, 1826, and came to Utah October 5, 1847. Their children: Ephraim Marcelles b. June 21, 1849; Marcia Amelia b. July 3,

1851; O. Alvarus b. Sept. 15, 1853; Harriett Page, b. Feb. 25, 1856; Clara Vilate b. July 10, 1858; Charles Decker, b. Dec. 22, 1860; Perry Isaac b. Jan. 20, 1863.

Harriett Amelia Decker was the widow of Edwin S. Little who died shortly after leaving Nauvoo. They had one child: George Edwin b. Aug. 1844 who came to Utah with his mother.

Ephraim married Jane Maria Capener March 27, 1856, Salt Lake City (daughter of William Capener and Sarah Verander of London, England, pioneers of Oct. 2, 1852, Isaac Bullock Company). She was born Oct. 16, 1840, Dry Brook, Ulster County, N.Y. Their children: William Albert C. b. Feb. 17, 1859, m. Eunice L. Murdock; Alice Maria b. Jan. 15, 1861, m. Moroni S. McAffee; Sarah Elizabeth b. March 10, 1863, m. Ethan Leonard Brown; Ephraim Knowlton b. May 18, 1865, m. Lottie Bagley; George Augustus b. Jan. 3, 1868, m. Malissa Merrell, m. Bessie Johns; David C. b. March 5, 1870, m. Mary Baum; Louisa Rebecca b. June 27, 1872, m. George W. Lowe.

Jane Maria Capener (Hanks) married Joseph E. Taylor. Their children: Jane, m. George Alexander; Margaret Wicks, m. Fred Cluff.

Ephraim married Thisbe Quilly Read April 6, 1862 (daughter of Samuel and Georgiana Read), who was born April 26, 1847, London, England, and came to Utah with the Daniel Tyler handcart company. Their children: Ella b. Nov. 3, 1863, died; Walter Ernest b. June 19, 1865 m. Mary E. Stewart April 15, 1887; Martha Georgiana b. Aug. 20, 1867, m. Daniel Allen, March 20, 1886; Amy Alicia b. Jan. 29, 1870 m. John Giles Dec. 21, 1887; Thisbe b. March 28, 1872 m. Samuel Allen Oct. 27, 1892. Knowlton b. Jan. 26, 1874, died; Sidney Alvarus b. April 4, 1875, m. Martha Hubber; Ray Elijah b. Aug. 24, 1877 d. Sept. 3, 1910; Lellie Maria b. Aug. 2, 1879, m. James Wodscow; Arthur Eugene b. May 14, 1882, m. Mattie Little; Nettie May b. Nov. 8, 1884 m. Henry Giles; Clara Ellen b. Aug. 9, 1888, m. Robert Kittley.

Ephraim was active in the Church, was a farmer, Mormon Scout and mail carrier. He spent much time among hostile Indians of the plains while assisting in bringing immigrants to Utah. Among the Indians, he won love and their respect and had a great influence over them. Being handy with a

horse, lariat and gun, he provided much needed food for the pioneers. He crossed over plains and mountains more than 50 times delivering mail, each trip taking from 40 to 90 days.

Ephraim was blessed with the power of healing and this talent increased after he was ordained a patriarch. Pres. Brigham Young said, "he was always ready to lay down his own life for the authorities of the Church." At the time of his death, June 9, 1896, he was serving as 1st counselor to Bishop Henry Giles of Blue Valley Ward, Wayne County. Burial took place in Cainesville, Utah.

Ephriam Knowlton Hanks

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1. 22 Sep 1848 Harriet Amelia Decker
2. 17 Mar 1856 (div) Hannah Hardy
3. 27 Mar 1856 Jane Maria Capener
4. 6 Apr 1862 Thisbe Quilley Read